



Woolverstone News

January 27th 2019

Dear All

The exquisitely fragile, nodding heads of snowdrops are among the most loved flowers of Spring and often the first to bloom. They are immensely hardy and can survive in cold and snow. They are also bearers of a promise that the earth is awakening after its winter sleep. Greek myth tells us that Persephone, Queen of the Underworld and the goddess of vegetation, carried Snowdrops on her return from Hades to our world in Spring. The snowdrops she carried brought back life to a barren, wintery landscape, but they also bear a hint of the Underworld they came from. Hence it is considered unlucky to pick them and bring them into the house!

*'The snowdrop, in purest white arraie,
First rears her hedde on Candlemas daie.
While the Crocus hastens to the shrine
Of Primrose lone on St Valentine.'*

An Early Kalendar of English Flowers

Snowdrops are also known as the "Fair Maid of February" or "Candlemas bells". Candlemas, a quarter day, falls on February 2nd but this year snowdrops have been flowering since St Paul's Day on 25th January and perhaps earlier. However, either date marks a point roughly halfway through Winter. Although we may have more cold weather to come, the excitement of Spring is building.

Parish News

Dairy House

Babergh planners recently gave planning permission to Ipswich High school for the change of use of the Dairy House, the conversion of the current barns, demolition of garages, plus the construction of an additional barn-like structure which will provide boarding accommodation for up to 55 students and associated staff. The aim is to be ready for the first boarders, numbering around 15, this coming September.

Horsepond's Green

The working party on Horsepond's Green have had their first Saturday meeting. The hedge that fronts the road opposite "The Forge" has been cut and cleared of brambles. The pond is to be dredged, the flag iris thinned and grassed area cleared and sown with wild grasses. Why not join the next working party on Saturday February 16th? (P.S. The photo at the head of this newsletter is of a group of snowdrops on Horsepond's Green.)

Local History

Have you looked at our Facebook page yet? If not, stop by and see how it is growing. This month we have added: the construction of the drive through Nelson's Avenue in 1991; old photo of the Cat House; a sketch of an earlier Woolverstone Hall; the story behind the monkeys on the Berners crest; the astonishing story of Mary Alice Berners; an extract from The Suffolk Traveller 1776; Clergy Rest aka Hamilton House and a book by an old boy at Woolverstone Hall, Michael Volpe, when it was a boarding school "Noisy at the Wrong times". There have been questions about Woolverstone village school. If anyone has photographs with names we would love to see them, especially the year of closure. It has been another busy month. We now have 110 members. Why not find out more and contribute your local knowledge, too? Join the conversation. Our Facebook page is called: Woolverstone: Notes and Queries. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044317292447243/>

Please take a look at the site. It would be of huge interest if we gathered history of the older houses in the village and the memories of villagers of Woolverstone in the past before they are lost to us. Please join the group and feel free to add information and photographs about our historic village. Or, indeed, ask questions! Someone may have an answer.

“Up and coming” Village events

Some Dates for your Diary:

St Michael’s Churchyard team. Fri 1st Feb. 10.00 -12.00

Restoration and maintenance volunteers: keeping our churchyard and open spaces beautiful. We are meeting at St Michael’s at 10.00 a.m. Grass cutting and clearing around Headstones.

Friends of Woolverstone AGM Thurs 7th Feb. 7.30

Friends of Woolverstone are a group of residents who have come together to try to raise a sense of community by working together and putting on various events. This year we are again hoping to replay some of the events which have been successful.

Please come and give us your opinion on what you feel might help bring us together, and have a nice time whilst raising a little money for various projects in the village.

Monthly Morning Market at St Michael’s Church. Sat 9th Feb. 9.00 – 12.30

I am told East End butchers are back from their break and if you would like to ring them for an order they will bring it with them on the Saturday. Their number is 01206 392190. Don’t miss the bacon butties and Woolverstone sausage! There will be local crafts, local foods, plants and trees, bird food and much more.

Take a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours and buy some local produce in the most beautiful and peaceful surroundings.

Parish Council Meeting Thurs 14th Feb. 7.30

Parish Council meetings take place on second Thursday of the month, except August. We receive reports for our County and District councils as well as discuss local issues. If there is something you would like to raise, please contact one of our councillors or come along to a meeting. There is an opportunity to raise your own issue(s) in the first 10 minutes of the meeting. If you would like to do this, please contact me, Simon Pearce, Chairman at simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk or Kathryn Deaton, our clerk, at kathryn@deaton.org.uk in the week preceding the meeting.

Horsepond’s Green team Sat 16th Feb. 10.00 – 12.00

Horsepond’s Green is the little area opposite Sideways Cottage and behind the Parish noticeboard which was gifted to the village of Woolverstone many years ago. It has been planted with trees, fruit trees and wild flowers as well as having a pond area. It has been cared for in an *ad hoc* fashion over the past few years.

We need a team of people who would like to work to keep this area “wild” but accessible. The team will meet on the third Saturday of each month. There are all manner of jobs needed: clearing plants from the pond, cutting the grass twice a year, cutting back growth of ivy and bramble, keeping hedges tidy, some tree management among other things!

Advanced notice:

Woolverstone Spring Clean

Sat 2nd and Sun 3rd March 10.00

Be prepared for our annual Spring Clean. This will be the thirteenth year we have tried to keep the verges, paths and foreshore in Woolverstone clean and tidy. Please join us.

Open Gardens

(early) **June 10 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.**

Friends of Woolverstone are going to reprise Open Gardens for a second time due to popular demand. It will take place in early June, exact date still to be decided. If you would like to consider opening your garden to visitors for a few hours on a Sunday in early June, please let me know. In 2017 we had 9 gardens open around the village and it was an enjoyable and beautiful day.

Sunday Services at St Michael's.

As I expect you are aware, we have no rector at present. We are in "interregnum". The process to find a new one will commence soon. It is uncertain how long this will take.

Sunday 3rd Feb	10.00	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. All are welcome.
	11.00	Café church
Sunday 10th Feb	11.00	Worship the Woolverstone Way.
Sunday 17th Feb	11.00	Morning Prayers
Sunday 24th Feb	11.00	Holy Communion

Helping our Community

Our community is stretched out in a ribbon or linear settlement, mostly along the B1456. People at No 1 are over a mile away from people at No 38. It is hard to stay connected. One of the ways to keep connected is through supporting local events, meeting and catching up with people. I hope you will be able to support the village through the different events that have been organised. We also need your help for some of the jobs that keep the community ticking away.

Community Speedwatch

Our Speedar device is still being re-calibrated.

In order to have a continuing presence we really need people who are prepared to give a couple of hours a month to support us.

If you would like to be part of the team to help keep the traffic flow through the village to safe limits, please make contact with me. Contact details below.

If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.

If your neighbour is not on the internet, why not print off a copy and pop it through their letterbox?

Best wishes

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk)